30

POL 14 VIETS
E 12 VIETS
(622)

DECLASSIFIED

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

11

CONFIDENTIAL

Action
EA
Info
SS
G PM
SP
SC
SAH
L
H
SAL
IO
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
AID
RSR

Control: 10358
Rec'd: June 12, 1967
1:33 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Saigon 27775

FROM: Saigon (Via Pouch)

ACTION: Secstate
INFO: Bangkok
CINCPAC
Hong Kong
Taipei
Vientiane

NO: Saigon 27775
DATE: June 7

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Subject: Return of Chinese Congregation Properties

Reference: Saigon 26673

1. Prime Minister Ky's May 17 agreement "in principle" to return to the Chinese community control over their congregation properties has been followed up by Col. Van Van Cue, Mayor of Saigon, in his capacity as president of the administrative committee which has controlled the Saigon/Cholon congregation properties since the congregations were abolished as legal entities in 1960. Col. Cua has authorized the heads of the various properties (primarily schools, hospitals, and cementaries) to expend funds for normal operations without going through the legthy process of getting prior approval from the administrative committee. Henceforth, only a monthly accounting will be required. Further, Col. Cua directed the Chinese leaders to set up new "mutual aid" associations which would be capable of assuming ownership and control over the properties. Eager to comply, the leaders of the various Chinese communities have been holding almost daily meetings to arrange for establishment of the new associations.

(2)

2. In his meetings with the Chinese leaders, Col. Cua has made it clear, if not explicit, that they are indebted to

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Prime Minister Ky for this new GVN approach to the properties question. According to a newspaper report, Chief of State Thieu has also expressed his agreement to the return of the properties. However, in the eyes of the Chinese community, primary credit will undoubtedly go to Ky. Even if it should not be possible to effect complete return of the properties before the election, Ky will probably stand to gain many Chinese votes on the basis of faith in his good intentions.

GP-3

BUNKER

kje

DECLASSIFIED

30 P&L 14 VIETS

DECLASSIFIED

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

623

11

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Saigon 27975

Action
EA

Info
SS
GPM
SP
SC
SAH
L
H
SAL
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
NIC
AID

RSR

R 100510Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC (VIA POUCH)
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT

12195

1967 JUN 14 PM 4 22

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 27975

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: DIRECTORATE MESSAGE TO ASSEMBLY ON UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW

REF: SAIGON 27955 - [illegible]

1. IN AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE OF JUNE 9, 1967, FROM GENERAL THIEU TO NA CHAIRMAN PHAN KHAC SUU, DIRECTORATE FORMALLY REQUESTS ASSEMBLY TO "RECONSIDER" THREE PROVISIONS OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW (SEE REFTEL). DIRECTORATE ASKS THAT DATE OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BE CHANGED TO COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THAT VOTERS BE ALLOWED TO CAST BALLOTS FOR SIX LISTS INSTEAD OF ONLY ONE, AND THAT PROVIDION DISQUALIFYING ENTIRE LIST IF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS IS ADJUDGED PRO- COMMUNIST BE REINSTATED. IN ADDITION, DIRECTORATE INFORMALLY PROPOSES THAT UPPER HOUSE BE REDUCED IN SIZE FROM 60 TO 40 MEMBERS.

2. DIRECTORATE POSITION ON THREE ISSUES FOR WHICH FORMAL "RECONSIDERATION" WAS REQUESTED WILL STAND UNLESS VOTED DOWN BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF TOTAL NA MEMBERSHIP. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MORNING JUNE 10 DEPUTIES NGUYEN ANVAN NGAI AND DINH THANH CHAU EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NA WOULD BE HARD PUT TO MUSTER REQUIRED MAJORITY TO OVERRIDE DIRECTORATE PROPOSALS. NA WILL DEBATE DIRECTORATE MESSAGE IN PLENARY SESSION TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

(1) 3. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF MESSAGE:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,

FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW TRANSMITTED BY YOUR LETTER 1890/OH/CTDH OF JUNE 7, 1967, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE ASSEMBLY TO RECONSIDER (PHUC NGHI) THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

I. DATE OF ELECTION: THE NLC STILL HOLDS THAT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION NEEDS TO BE ORGANIZED THE SAME DAY AS THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, FOR THE REASONS WHICH WERE CLEARLY STATED IN ITS COMMUNIQUE NUMBER 3 OF MAY 2, 1967. IN THAT SPIRIT, THE NLC PROPOSES THE ELECTION CALENDAR WHICH IS ATTACHED.

II. CITIZENS' RIGHT TO VOTE: ARTICLE 30 OF THE DRAFT LAW SPECIFIES THAT EACH VOTER HAS THE RIGHT TO OTE FOR ONLY ONE LIST. TIS ARTICLE VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTION SINCE IT RESTRICTS THE CITIZENS' RIGHT TO VOTE PRESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 33 OF THE CONSTITUTION.

ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 33, THE ENTIRE UPPER HOUSE MEMBERSHIP IS ELECTED FROM A SINGLE NATION-WIDE CONSTITUENCY. THUS, EVERY SENATOR WILL BE THE DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN ONLY THE PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN LOCALITY, AND EVERY VOTER MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ALL HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UPPER HOUSE. IF ONLY ALLOWED TO VOTE FOR ONE LIST, 5/6 OF THE VOTERS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY.

III. MEASURES TO SANCTION LISTS WHICH INCLUDE COMMUNIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALIST CANDIDATES: IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE ELECTION LAW MUST SEEK EVERY MEANS TO PREVENT THE INFILTRATION OF COMMUNIST AND PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALIST ELEMENTS INTO THE FUTURE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THEREFORE, THE NLC BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE MEASURES OF SANCTION WHICH WERE CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT ELECTION LAW BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY VOTED FINAL APPROVAL OF THE LAW, ACCORDING TO WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF A LIST WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED FROM RUNNING IF ONE MEMBER WERE ELIMINATED FOR HAVING BEEN ACTIVE FOR COMMUNISM OR PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALISM OR IN A MANNER ADVANTAGEOUS TO COMMUNISM.

IN ADDITION, IN ORDER TO LIGHTEN THE UPPER HOUSE AND ALLOW IT TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY, AS WELL AS TO ECONOMIZE ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET, THE NLC PROPOSES THAT THE NUMBER OF SENATORS BE REDUCED TO 40 INSTEAD OF 60. RESPECTIFULLY YOURS, LT. GEN. NGUYEN VAN THIEU, JUNE 9, 1967 UNQUOTE.

LOCKE
BT

DECLASSIFIED

30

POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

(624)

Saigon 28115

52

CONFIDENTIAL

Action
EA
Info
SS
GPM
SP
SC
SAH
L
H
SAL
IO
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
ACDA
AID

NNNNVZCZCMJA022JIA096
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 28115 1651045
ZNY CCCCC
R 141030Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28115

011678

1967 JUN 14 AM 7 08

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ON OCCASSION OF INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR NEWLY-ELECTED HAMLET CHIEFS IN BINH DINH ON JUNE 12, QUANG TRUNG DAY, PRIME MINISTER KY PROVIDED SOME COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WHICH WERE REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS. ON VIETNAMESE SIDE, CEREMONY ALSO ATTENDED BY FOUR CORPS COMMANDERS, GENERALS CAO VAN VIEN, NGUYEN DUC THANG, LINH QUANG VIEN, DEPUTY PM NGUYEN LUU VIEN AND SOCIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION NGUYEN VAN TUONG.

RSR

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 28115 C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. KY REPORTED AS SAYING: QUOTE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE THE NAME OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON MY SLATE BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET DECIDED BETWEEN TWO CIVILIANS. UNQTE. HE ADDED THAT HE ESTIMATES THAT THERE WILL BE FOUR SLATES INCLUDING THOSE OF PHAN KHAC SUU AND TRAN VAN HUONG.

DECLASSIFIED BY DOS

3. CHINH TUAN CARRIED ADDITIONAL QUESTION - AND - ANSWER SESSION BETWEEN PRIMIN AND REPORTER AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: Q: DO YOU OFTEN MEET GENERAL THIRU?
A: WE SEE EACH OTHER VERY OFTEN.
Q: DO YOU THINK THERE WILL BE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FROM THE ARMY?
A: I CAN SAY NO BECAUSE THE IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR US NOW IS THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ARMY. WE CANNOT LET THE ELECTION ISSUE BREAK UP OUR UNITY. WE JUST SPOKE ABOUT THAT UNITY IN THE ARMY WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE MEETINGS

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

THIS MORNING.
Q: DO YOU THINK GENERAL THIRU WILL RUN?
A: GENERAL THIRU HAS NOT YET MADE AN OFFICIAL
DECLARATION ON THAT MATTER. UNQUOTE. A NUMBER OF PAPERS AE

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 28115 C O N F I D E N T I A L
INTERPRETING KY'S REMARKS TO MEAN THAT HE BELIEVES GENERAL THIRU
WILL NOT RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: DIRECTORATE GENERALS ABSENT FROM
CEREMONY WERE THIEU AND CHIEU, THE TWO WHO ARE KNOWN NOT
TO BE COMMITTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CANDIDACY. HOW-
EVER, PRESENCE OF FOUR CORPS COMMANDERS
AT CEREMONY CLEARLY DESIGNED TO
INDICATE DEGREE OF SOLIDARITY BEHIND KY. BUNKER
BT

DECLASSIFIED